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Letter dated 28 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing with regard to draft resolution A/60/L.60 and the letter dated 10 August 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations regarding the fires in the areas close to the line of contact in Nagorno Karabagh, circulated as a document of the General Assembly and the Security Council (A/60/975-S/2006/642).

The two documents are replete with incorrect and even fabricated information, thus misleading and misinforming the international community on matters related to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and the situation in and around the area. However, the most appalling is the claim of the Azerbaijani Permanent Representative that there is no discussion of self-determination during negotiations, which he says are not ongoing. The Minsk Group Co-Chairs on the other hand have clearly described how the negotiations address the core issue of self-determination, and how these same negotiations have in fact registered forward movement on this and other difficult issues (see statements of the Co-Chairs attached to A/60/933-S/2006/500).

Azerbaijan resorts to presenting draft resolutions at the United Nations each time the negotiation process approaches a turning point, and it wishes to divert international attention from its unwillingness and non-readiness to take difficult political steps forward.

Azerbaijan tries to push forward a politically motivated resolution under the pretext of two issues of concern — resettlement and fires. Two years ago Azerbaijan put forth allegations on resettlement policies, which were invalidated by the OSCE fact-finding mission dispatched at the initiative of the Armenian side. This year, Azerbaijan is putting forth accusations of malign intent regarding fires, although those allegations had been disproved again by the findings in the eyewitness report of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office's Personal Representative. On both issues, Armenia has circulated the reports of the OSCE missions providing accurate information on the matters of concern (see A/59/742-S/2005/182 and A/60/961-

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S/2006/588). There is nothing confidential — nor ambiguous — about these reports, and they are circulated as official OSCE documents.

After a decade of Armenia calling for regional cooperation as the best confidence-building measure, and after a decade of Azerbaijan totally rejecting this approach to the extent that it became official policy, Azerbaijan has come to the realization that regional cooperation can be useful and even necessary to combat common problems, such as putting out fires. We have always been and are prepared to cooperate on this and other issues, and such a cooperation requires primarily a display of political will from the parties rather than circulation of documents within various organizations.

Thus, submission of a draft resolution on the basis of totally distorted representation of the facts on the ground in and around the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, facts that have repeatedly been disproved by monitoring missions visiting the region, is an attempt to hamper the whole peace process within the OSCE Minsk Group by imposing paralysis. Armenia has stated previously that any such motion would leave no other option for Armenia but to withdraw from facilitation in the peace process, and Azerbaijan would be obliged to negotiate directly with the authorities of Nagorno Karabagh.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative